|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| cid:image001.jpg@01D2A958.8799B760

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** Megan Taylor |
| April 28, 2017 | 202-224-6244 |

**Heller Slams Trump Budget’s “Dirt Tax”** **Washington, D.C.** – Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) is raising yet another issue with the Administration’s budget request. Heller is asking Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney to reconsider including royalties and fees that would in essence place a “Dirt Tax” on Nevada miners and cripple the industry in the Silver State. Heller has opposed many aspects of the Administration’s budget outline ranging from [SNPLMA](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=99ED6415-4D50-4234-B12C-444467119C8E) and [PILT](http://www.rgj.com/story/news/2017/04/06/trumps-proposed-public-land-cuts-would-hit-rural-nevada-hardest/304704001/) cuts, to their proposed revival of a nuclear waste repository in [Yucca Mountain](https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/politics-and-government/nevada/witnesses-urge-house-lawmakers-to-revive-yucca-mountain/). During a recent joint session address to the Nevada state legislature, Heller called the budget request “[anti-Nevada](https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/2017-legislature/heller-says-hell-work-to-stymie-trump-administration-proposals-that-would-hurt-nevada/).” **The letter to Director Mulvaney reads in full**:Mick MulvaneyDirectorOffice of Management and Budget725 17th Street, NWWashington, DC 20503­Director Mulvaney:*As you look to complete work on the President’s Fiscal Year 2018 budget request, I want to draw your attention to yet another issue that would have a significant negative impact on my home state of Nevada, namely new royalties and an abandoned mine land (AML) fee on minerals mining. These fees were included by President Obama in his failed budget proposals, and I strongly believe they will only serve to cripple the mining industry in my state and across the West. I respectfully encourage you not to impose what amounts to little more than a “dirt tax” on an industry that continues to be an economic driver in our country.**As you know, mining is the backbone of Nevada’s rural economy.  This industry is responsible for nearly 18,575 jobs in my state with an average weekly wage of over $2,000 for Nevada’s miners. This amounts to nearly $107 billion in gross domestic product (GDP) to the state. Throughout Nevada’s economic recovery, mining has been a consistent bright spot, offering good-paying jobs and economic stability for Nevada’s rural communities. Any sort of new “dirt tax” will cause significant harm to this industry and miners in my state.**In fact, estimates show that, based on President Obama’s failed proposal, should you chose to implement an AML fee of 7.8 cents per ton of material displaced, it will cost Nevada’s mining companies close to $40.7 million. At a time when my state continues to recover from the stagnant economic growth of this past Administration, I strongly urge you to reconsider any proposal to implement such a fee.* *While I share your goal of putting our nation back on the path to long-term economic stability and balancing our federal budget, I do not believe that imposing a new tax on a pro-growth industry is the solution. Instead, I believe that we need cut spending and implement my No Budget No Pay Act to restore the annual budget and appropriations process for both chambers of Congress.* *I appreciate your prompt consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions or concerns.* *Sincerely,**DEAN HELLER**U.S. Senator*###cid:image002.png@01D2A958.8799B760cid:image003.png@01D2A958.8799B760cid:image004.png@01D2A958.8799B760 |